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Non sibi sed toto genitos se credere Mundo.

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A Diſſertation on MIRACLES,

In Three Parts.

The laſt Part contains a Diſcuſſion of the Queſtion, *Whether Impoſtors may work Miracles?*

INTRODUCTION.

A MIRACLE may be defined an interruption or change of the courſe of nature.

A miracle then muſt be an effect above the powers of nature. Conſequently,

It muſt be aſcribed to the immediate or mediate agency of God. For it is abſurd to ſpeak of a *natural* power in created agents to do *ſupernatural* things. All creatures are neceſſarily ſubject to the creator. Their power cannot exceed the bounds he hath ſet. If they are immediate agents in events which exceed the natural limitation of their faculties, they muſt be viewed as inſtruments in his hands.

To aſk, therefore, whether *impoſtors* may work miracles, is to aſk whether God may delegate his power to ſuch. This queſtion will be attended to in the ſequel.

When the Deiſt denies the poſſibility of miracles; or inſiſts, that we can not know whether any are wrought, becauſe we know not the powers of nature, or of finite agents; he not only denies that God *has* given a revelation to mankind, but affirms it to be impoſſible that he ever *ſhould*. For whether he hath, or ever will, faith in it muſt be grounded on the divine teſtimony. But, it ſeems, no ſuch teſtimony can be given as to be a foundation for faith. The Father of Spirits can make no ſpecial communication to his offſpring; or if he doth, cannot ſo confirm it as that they can be aſcertained whether it is from him, or from finite invention.

What we propoſe is to ſhew, that miracles are the proper confirmation of divine revelation—— and that the Chriſtian religion in particular has been confirmed by them.

PART I.

IN the diſcuſſion of the firſt of theſe points, it is incumbent on us to evince the following things;——That miracles are poſſible——that there is no preſumption againſt them beforehand—— that faith grounded on the teſtimony of them is a rational act—— and that miraculous facts may be ſo aſcertained to thoſe who were not the ſubjects nor witneſſes of them, and ſo tranſmitted to after times, as to claim belief.

FIRST, Of the poſſibility of miracles. If the frame of nature is a monument of the creating power of God, if the laws of nature are his eſtabliſhment, doubtleſs he is able to ſuſpend or alter the courſe of nature, or to diſſolve the whole frame of nature. To ſay that the laws given to the material world, or powers imparted to finite beings, cannot be interrupted, changed, or withheld, is to ſay that the Almighty Maker and Governor is ſubjected to the creatures and things his own hands have made Is this conſonant to his infinite perfection? to any juſt conceptions of all-ſufficiency and independence, of a providence and moral government? would it not follow herefrom that the world is eternal?

Further, the power of God muſt extend to all the poſſibilities of things. Now what creature knows ſuch poſſibilities? How then doth a being imperfect as man know that a miracle is impoſſible?

Further, that he who formed the ſpirit of man within him, ſhould have acceſs to it, is a rational ſuppoſition. Admit that in this way ſome ſpecial communication may be made to any one, is it not further rational to ſuppoſe, that ſuch perſon ſhould be aſſured himſelf of this communication? and that he be able alſo to aſſure others of it, who have not had the like communications themſelves? But how could he aſſure others, except in a miraculous way? If it be poſſible for God to inſtruct man in a ſupernatural way, his goodneſs would lead us to hope for ſuch inſtruction, if man's neceſſities called for it. And who that conſiders the brutal ignorance of the uncivilized, uncultivated nations of the earth can doubt of ſuch neceſſity? Now on ſuppoſition of the vouchſafement of ſupernatural inſtruction, can he who vouchſafes it, want means to confirm it? To what purpoſe then would this in-

ſtruction be? A ſign is aſked. A miraculous one only can determine that the inſtruction is from GOD.

Once more: For the ſake of illuſtration, let us make the ſuppoſition of a particular miracle; for inſtance, raiſing the dead. Will an objector ſay, that this exceeds the power of GOD? As well might he ſay, that GOD could not give life at firſt. If then it be poſſible that one ſhould be raiſed from the dead, would this be according to the courſe of nature? Who will undertake to ſhew that it might be effected by any powers in nature? If it could not, and yet be poſſible, then the poſſibility of a miracle muſt be admitted.

Secondly, There appears to be no preſumption or good reaſon againſt miracles beforehand. For if beings made upright may fall, doth it imply any contradiction to ſay, that their maker may have mercy on them? May not the goodneſs to which they owe their being, interpoſe to reſcue them from ruin? Should there be ſuch an interpoſition, it muſt be (at leaſt the proof of it muſt be) miraculous. For how can it be made to appear that their offended creator is propitious, or in what way he is ſo, unleſs he himſelf declares it, and confirms the declaration by miracle? Rebels may wiſh for mercy: but it is one thing to wiſh, and another to have juſt reaſon to expect it. The reaſonable expectation of mercy muſt originate from, and can only be ſupported by, ſome aſſurance from their ſovereign.---- This aſſurance muſt be ſuppoſed to be given *after* their rebellion. How elſe can it be ſhewn that ſin deſerves puniſhment? If this be its deſert, it can be known only from the publication of an act of grace, that this puniſhment may be remitted. And muſt not the ſeal of the offended ſovereign be ſet to ſuch act of grace? Sin and evil are in the world. Were mankind wicked and deſerving of puniſhment as they originally came from the forming hands of an infinitely wiſe and perfect being? If not, they are now in a ſtate of apoſtacy. Who then but muſt rejoice to hear, that he who formed them will be reconciled? But how are we to hear this? From the teſtimony of an accuſing conſcience, remanding us over to the tribunal of an holy and juſt judge? or from the teſtimony of the judge from a throne of grace?

Thirdly, Admitting any religion is confirmed by miracles, faith grounded on them is a rational act. For theſe evidence the power of GOD no leſs than the works of nature. If therefore the divine power and Godhead are clearly manifeſted in the works of nature, miracles, exhibiting like power, muſt be ſuppoſed to proceed from the ſame hand. That miracles really are ſimilar works to thoſe of nature may be ſhewn as we proceed. Hence we muſt ſubmit to their authority, or embrace atheiſm. If none but the author of nature can ſtop or alter its courſe, then this muſt as fully declare a divine hand and demand our belief, as the works of creation declare a Creator, and demand our belief in him.---- Suppoſe one raiſed from the dead, it would be as rational to believe this effected by the power of GOD, as to believe that HE firſt breathed into man the breath of life.

Fourthly, Miraculous facts may be ſo aſcertained to thoſe who were neither the ſubjects nor witneſſes of them, and ſo tranſmitted to after times as to claim belief. If a ſupernatural fact may be proved in the time of it to the rational conviction of the minds of thoſe before whom it is wrought, and of others thro' their teſtimony, why ſhould the tranſmiſſion of it be thought incredible? Suppoſe a revelation from GOD is poſſible and neceſſary, muſt it be renewed in every age and country? It muſt, if after ages can have no dependence on a revelation made to former ones: or if one country cannot be aſſured of a ſupernatural communication to another. Shall we queſtion whether the old world was deluged? if it was, the deluge was a miracle. But it happened four thouſand years ago. How then can we know that there ever was ſuch an event? A ſupernatural event, it is ſaid, cannot be fully confirmed to the witneſſes, much leſs to diſtant ages. Noah therefore and his family, though toſſed for more than a year on the flood, might ſcruple whether the world was drowned, though they found not a living creature on the earth upon quitting the ark, except what had been preſerved with them in it. Or the immediate deſcendants of this family might doubt their whole narration of this cataſtrophe, even while ſtrong traces of it remained: And eſpecially may we at this diſtance doubt it, notwithſtanding any preſumptions of it from the preſent ſtate of the earth. But thoſe who pretend there could be impoſition in this caſe; or that if real, after ages cannot be aſſured of it, ſhould remember that it is incumbent on them to ſhew at leaſt, that there are other nations on earth than thoſe which ſprang from Noah.

Suppoſe that ſome millions were ſuſtained forty years in the wilderneſs by bread from heaven, and that in all this time their garments waxed not old. This muſt have been a miracle; that people could have no doubt of it. They could certainly know whether in all this time they had ſown or reaped; whether they had ſpun or wove

new garments. If they had not, other nations muſt have known the caſe; and they could tranſmit it to their poſterity ſo as that this wonderful preſervation muſt needs be believed.

Suppoſe that in the hiſtory of this fame people it ſhould be recorded afterwards, that the land of Paleſtine, every year preceding that called the ſabbatical, yielded the common increaſe of three years, that on the ſabbatical year the whole land reſted, there was neither tillage nor harveſt; and yet that the old ſtore ſupplied them for this and the next year----that this happened not merely once or twice, but regularly in ſeven years for many centuries.

Suppoſe further, that the males from all parts of the country met annually three times in the capital, in conſequence of which the country was open to the invaſion of enemies, who, having been driven from it, ſought opportunities of revenge; yet, in this expoſed ſtate of the country yearly, theſe enemies never made a deſcent upon it.

Theſe, you will acknowledge, muſt have been miraculous events; And if they happened thro' ſo long a tract of time, and regularly, the evidence of them to that people, and all countries, muſt be unconteroulable. We might alſo have ſuppoſed another caſe, equally miraculous, and to which hiſtoric faith is equally due---viz. the parting of the ſea to make a paſſage for the hoſt of Iſrael, to whom its divided waters were as a wall on the right and left; while the ſtrength of Egypt was overwhelmed, the waters returning to their former place as they were purſuing.

Inſtead of taking up time to prove that theſe things were ſo, I would only obſerve, that a bold denial of matters of ſuch notoriety and magnitude, which have been ſo long believed on the fulleſt teſtimony of the beſt hiſtories, can entitle no man to the leaſt regard. Let him firſt produce contrary evidence, if any there is. Or if the facts are admitted, but ſhould be denied to be ſignatures of a divine hand, as well may it be denied that the ſignatures of ſuch an hand are viſible in the creation and preſervation of the world.

GUN was *preſented* by the grand jury, for an aſſault on *Twomas Partridge*: he pleaded not guilty, and on trial it appeared in evidence, that *mr. Partridge* demanded pay of mr. Gun for mending his *Barrel*, Gun who was more than *halfcock'd* at the time *level'd* a blow at Partridge, and wounded him.—It was alſo ſworn that Gun was a *noiſy*, ill *tempered Spark*, eaſily ſet in a *flame*; that he had a heart as hard as a *flint*; that he was *trig'd* of like a gentleman, made a *fleſhy* appearance with his *locks powdered*, yet was a *ſpunging* fellow, that never paid his *ſhot* at the alehouſe, and was ſuſpected of being a deſerter from the army. *Mr. Sergent*, of council for the defendent urged that his client was an honeſt good whig, as true as *ſteel*, and had done good ſervice in the cauſe, that he was the firſt to *draw a trigger* in it and had ſuffered much for it, having been lately rifled by the enemy, and narrowly eſcaped being put to the bayonet; that he always paid his *club* when in *flock*—but was much inflamed at finding himſelf too *high charged*; yet ſaid nothing, though truly he was pretty well *primed* at the time, Partridge who is a fly provoking fellow, ſaid he was his *match*, threatened to give him a *wipe*, and attempted to make a *but* of him, and then catching him off his *guard*, *rammed* him in a corner gave him a kick on the, *breech* and *loaded* him with ſuch abuſe that it was no wonder he *ſtruck fire*, and, burning with reſentment *let fly* at him.—He ſaid further that proſecution was only ſet on foot to *ſcrew* ſomething out of Gun, who had ſo much honour, that when the conſtable had him in *tow*, he ſcorn'd to *go off*, though he was *well mounted*, he hoped, however the proſecutor would *miſs his aim*, and find he had *over ſhot his mark*.

The jury found the defendant not guilty, upon which mr. *Bird*, of council for the proſecutor, moved the court to have Gun bound to his good behaviour, as the proſecutor was ready to ſwear the peace againſt him: but the court bid him apply to a juſtice of peace off the bench, and ordered gun to be diſcharged.

New OFFICE of INITIATION for all Youths of the ſuperior Claſs.

Lord Cheſterfield's *Creed.*

"I Believe that this world is the object of my hopes and morals, and that the little prettineſſes of life will anſwer all the ends of human exiſtence. I believe that we are to ſucceed in all things by the graces of civility and attention that there is no ſin but againſt good manners, and that all religion and virtue conſiſts in outward appearance. I believe that all women are children, and all men fools, except a few cunning people, who ſee through the reſt, and make their uſe of them. I believe that hypocriſy, fornication and adultery are within the lines of morality; that a woman may be honorable when ſhe has loſt her honour, and virtuous when ſhe hath loſt her virtue.

"This and whatever elſe is neceſſary to obtain my own ends, and

bring me into reputy, I reſolve to follow; and to avoid all moral offences, ſuch as ſcratching my head before company, ſpitting upon the floor, and omitting to pick up a lady's fan, and in this perſuſiaon I will perſevere, without any regard to to the reſurrection of the body or the life everlaſting, *Amen.*"

Q. Wilt thou be initiated into theſe principles?

A. That is my inclination.

Q. Wilt thou keep up the rules of the Cheſterfield morality?

A. I will, Lord Cheſterfield being my admoniſher.

The Officiator ſhall ſay,

Name this child.

A. *A Fine Gentleman.*

Then he ſhall ſay,

"I introduce the to the world, the fleſh, and the devil, that thou mayeſt triumph over all awkwardneſs, and grow up in all politeneſs; that thou mayeſt be acceptable to the ladies, celebrated for refined breeding, able to ſpeak French, and read Italian, inveſted with ſome public ſupernumerary character in a foreign court, get into parliament, perhaps into the privy council; and that when thou are dead, the letters written to thy baſtards may be publiſhed, in five editions, for the inſtruction of all ſober families.

"Ye are to take care that this child, when he is of a proper age, be ſent to *Geneva* to be *confirmed.*

A Specimen of King James the Firſt, in the Art of Writing.

TAKING tobacco was much ridiculed by men of faſhion, in the reign of James; and the courtiers affected to reject it with horror. The King ſaid, "that tobacco was the lively image and pattern of hell; for that it had, by alluſion, in it all the parts and vices of the world, whereby hell may be gained; to wit, Firſt, it was a ſmoke; ſo are all the vanities of this world. Secondly, it delighted thoſe who take it; ſo do all the pleaſures of the world delight the men of the world. Thirdly, it maketh men drunken, and light in the head; ſo do all the vanities of the world—men are drunk therewith. Fourthly, he that taketh tobacco ſaith he cannot leave it, it doth bewitch him; even ſo the pleaſures of the world make men loth to leave them, they are, for the moſt part ſo enchanted with them. And further, beſides all this, it is like hell in the very ſubſtance of it; for it is a ſtinking lothſome thing—and ſo is hell. And further, his majeſty profeſſed, that were he to invite the devil to a dinner he ſhould have three diſhes: firſt a pig; ſecond a poll of ling and muſtard; and third, a pipe of tobacco, for digeſture."

LONDON, Auguſt 18.

It is perhaps worthy of remark, that Mr. Adams the American miniſter, took his departure the very morning that an attempt was made on the life of his majeſty. Although this is a fact that cannot be denied, yet it is not maliciouſly ſuggeſted, to ſhow the probability of our late good fellow ſubjects, and our preſent good friends having any deſign inimical to the preſervation of our moſt glorious ſovereign. Forbid it heaven! forbid it virtue! ——There is not the ſhadow of reaſon to ſuſpect any thing ſo foul of our new friends, nor indeed of any enemies in their ſenſes. Conſpiracies of ſuch a nature are executed by different inſtruments. The ſort of knife uſed, deſtroys every idea of conſpiracy, foreign or domeſtic, or of acting from agency. The act horrid even in idea, clearly ſhews infatuation. Infanity it cannot be called, becauſe a premeditated or preconcerted act, deliberately executed, is not the wild precipitate and uncontrived act of the inſane.

A correſpondent paſſing on Monday morning up Holborn, obſerved a perſon that had been paying his devotions to St. Monday, and was under the neceſſity of caſting anchor on a pair of ſteps near Hatton Garden: A croud gathered around him, when

A ſailor ſaid—he was top-heavy.

A ſoldier—that he was pot-valiant.

Another ſailor—that he was half-ſeas over.

A gardener—that he had been in the ſun.

A landlord—that he looked pure roſy.

An apothecary—that he was in for it.

An exciſeman—that he was much in liquor.

An attorney ſaid—that the fellow had got in a ſcrape

A parſon—that he was hiſtius doctus.

A player that—he was diſguiſ'd.

A drover ſaid he was as drunk as a beaſt.

Lord S——y happened to paſs in his coach, his lordſhip put out his head, and pronounced the fellow to be---non-compos.

Mr. Pitt was in the ſame carriage, and ſaid—he looks like a lunatic.

A taylor---that he was damnably cut.

A porkman in the neighbourhood---that he was as drunk as David's Sow.

Our correſpondent really thought the fellow---had enough and ſo he departed.

Sept. 8. *Before the King of Pruſſia became, as he has ſince been, the terror of Europe, he was far from being remarkable for his intrepidity.*

At the battle which the Imperial General Neuperg, forced him to accept under the walls of Neisse. The Austrian cavalry totally routed that of the Prussian, and on the very first ouset Frederic, who was not yet used to the noisy din of arms, fled as fast as his horse could carry him, and never stopt till he reached Opeleim, twelve full leagues distant from the field of battle. He laid all night at a public house in a village near Ratiber, on the confines of Poland, in his way to the northern part of his dominions; there he was overtaken by an aid de camp, who brought him intelligence of the day having been won by the Prussians. The Monarch would hardly believe it. The fact was really so. Though the cavalry was very indifferent, the Prussian infantry was the best in Europe. Those brave troops had been trained thirty years by the old Prince of Anhalt, and were then under the command of Mareschal Schwerin, a pupil of Charles XII. of Sweden. He beat the enemy as soon as the King had turned his back upon them. The next day his Majesty came to the camp, and the victorious General nearly lost his favour with his grateful master.

Voltaire on this occasion records an anecdote, which is as ridiculous as it must be disagreeable to the hero of the tale. The celebrated Maupertuis, who dreamed of nothing but securing a large fortune, had followed his royal Patron in this campaign, in hopes that the King would at least order a horse for his use. But there he found himself mistaken. It was by no means the foible of Frederic to be over complaisant. The Academician was compelled to pay two ducats for an ass, with which he attempted in vain to follow the speed of the royal run-away.

The late Frederic of Prussia was not less despotic in military and political, than he shewed himself absolute in ecclesiastical affairs. He asserted his right to be the sole arbiter of seperations and divorces, whenever man and wife were tired to live together. A minister of the church happened one day, as no doubt his conscience directed, to expostulate with his Majesty, and quoted some passages in the New-Testament, that made against a lay-man interfering in such matters. "Very well," replied Frederic, "you are for the New, but I declare for the Old one, as the most sensible, I am Moses the second, be led on his Hebrews as he thought proper, and I will govern my Prussians as I list."

The Gentleman who put a period to his existence on Monday evening. was an American Loyalist. After losing the whole of his property, by an adherence to an unfortunate cause, he rendered very essential services to the Royal army, and had reason to expect some compensation from government, to which he had sacrificed thing. Administration, however more intent upon granting pensions to commissioners, than rewarding real merit, have suffered him to linger, in a cruel suspence, for near three years, until at length he was assured that his affairs should be concluded to his satisfaction. Monday morning he learnt, that the "Jacks in office," had left town, and his business unsettled. A ray of hope (the only resource of the wretched) no longer remaining, he charged a pestol with three balls, which he lodged in his breast, leaving on his table, the following card, addressed to his landlord.

"David Wilson,

"Fly into the presence of the Almighty Being, who penetrates and sustains nature, neither doubtful nor diffident. For this last and only act of my life, which I condemn, let those who have reduced me to a fatal alternative, answer. The loss of fortune, and embarrasment of situation were enough;--the insolence of office might have been spared! Let my remains, if an ungreatful country chuses it, be impaled. They have starved me while living, let them mangle me when dead; it will be a moment of the ideot, who devotes himself to such a people.

"Forward the inclosed to a wretched sister in New-York, by the next packet:--She will remit you the arrear, which I am unable to pay."

The following remrk has appeared in the Paris Journal:

George III. mounted the throne of Great-Britain 1760. In the 13th year of his reign, on 23d of June, 1773, he went on board a man of war, for the first time, at Portsmouth, to review his fleet. Louis XVI. thirteen years after, and in the 23th year of his reign, went to Cherburg, and on the same day, June the 23d, his Majesty ascended for the first time one of his men of war.

BOSTON, November 21.

On Saturday last, his Excellency the Governour was pleased to prorogue the General Court to Wednesday the 31st of January next.

The following are the titles of the several Acts which were passed during the session, and to which the Governour was pleased to sign his approbation, viz.

An Act confirming a treaty made with the Penobscot tribe of Indians.

An Act for establishing a mint, for the coinage of gold, silver and copper.

An Act to incorporate the plantation called Sterlington, in the county of Lincoln, into a town by the name of Union.

An Act for incorporating a part of Templeton, and a part of Athol, in the county of Worcester, into a town by the name of Gerry.

An Act for the altering of a certain clause in an act entitled, "an act regulating the exportation of fixed, pot-ash, pearl-ash, beef, pork, barrelled fish, and dried fish.

An Act for the confirming of the second church in Boston, so called in their title to certain lands.

An Act for eſtabliſhing rules and articles for governing the troops ſtationed in forts and garriſons within this commonwealth; and alſo the militia, or any part thereof, when called into actual ſervice.

An Act to prvent routs, riots and tumultuous aſſemblies, and the evil conſequences thereof.

An Act providing a more eaſy payment of the ſpecie taxes, aſſeſſed previous to the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty-four.

An Act for ſuſpending the privileges of the writ of Habeas Corpus.

An Act for eſtabliſhing a Comptroller-General.

An Act to bring into the publick treaſury the ſum of one hundred and ſixty-three thouſand and two hundred pounds, in public ſecurities, by a ſale of a part of the eaſtern lands; and to eſtabliſh a lottery for that purpoſe.

An Act for rendering proceſſes in law leſs expenſive.

An Act granting indemnity to ſundry offenders on certain conditions, and providing for the trial of ſuch who ſhall neglect or refuſe to comply with ſaid conditions, and of thoſe who ſhall be guilty of like offences.

An Act for ſuſpending the laws for the collection of private debts, under certain limitations.

An Act appropriating the revenue ariſing from the duties of impoſt and exciſe.

An Act to raiſe a public revenue by exciſes.

An Act to raiſe a publick revenue by an impoſt.

We are informed that our conſolidated ſtate notes are again riſing to 5 and 6*ſ.* in the pound.

HARTFORD, Nov. 20.

POLITICAL PARAGRAPHS.

CONNECTICUT.

At the cloſe of this war, this ſtate was divided into two parts—*Communalion* and *Non-communalion*. Great numbers of people were angry with Congreſs, for promiſing ſome extra pay to officers and ſoldiers; but when they found that the five years pay, even in caſh would not make good the original contract with the army, and eſpecially when they found that the ſecurities were likely to depreciate, the murmurs ceaſed—the army was cheated and the people ſatiſfied.

But the promiſes are yet to be fulfilled. The debt muſt be paid. The ſecurities in ſome ſtates are all funded: and they are many of them in the hands of people who have power to compel us to pay them—in the hands of foreign nations, who are not accuſtomed to be ſhuffled out of their debts by ſuch tricks as we employ in cheating one another. The debt muſt be paid; but will weſtern lands pay it? They will ſink a great part of it when they are properly managed. But will they ſell for three ſhillings per acre? Can they be ſurveyed for twenty-ſeven dollars per townſhip? Will the ſecurities alone be paid for them? Had continental as well as ſtate ſecurities been made receivable for the lands, at a lower price, they would be ſold at once—but that inſect policy—that ſelfiſh narrow ſyſtem of meaſures which now diſgraces this ſtate, will defeat its own ends and continue the load of debt which we are fooliſhly bearing on our own ſhoulders. We are like Iſſachar of old—a ſtrong aſs bowing down between two burthens. The leaders of the majority and their adherents may pique themſelves now on their politicnl ſkill, but a few years experience will bury them in ridicule and deteſtation.

The *Cincinnati* are a great bugbear to ſome people. Well then, let them alone, and they will loſe their importance and formidableneſs. The bluſter about a ſociety of this kind, always calls to my mind an old woman, who ſaw a gun-barrel, without lock or ſtock. "Don't touch it, Billy," ſays the old lady, "for it may go off." "But it is not loaded," replies Billy, "No matter," anſwers this cautious woman; "but it may go off and hurt you." "Why Mamma," cries Billy, "there is no lock upon it." "Aye, aye," ſays madam, "but it may go off, I tell you, for all that."

What ſhall we ſay about diminiſhing the repreſentation of this ſtate? Why it is oppoſed upon the ſame principle as towns and counties are annually multiplied. Every man wants to be a judge, a juſtice, a ſheriff, a deputy or ſomething elſe which will bring him a little authority. The people of this ſtate pay annually about twenty thouſand pounds to ſuperfluous officers: and what is worſe their buſineſs is not half ſo well done, as it would be by fewer men.——

——Every one knows that one man can tell the minds of a town as well as two, and that when no town can ſend more than one deputy, the repreſentation is juſt as equal—and that half the number will do the buſineſs in half the time and ſave three fourths of the expence, which will be ſeveral thouſand dollars. The people know this and will give inſtructions accordingly.

We are told that our fathers came to this howling wilderneſs to enjoy liberty—well let us then enjoy liberty. Let us not then be paying a hundred men for two months ſervice in a year, when half the number will do our buſineſs better. Mr. H. ſays that our good forefathers thought not two members to one town too many; but they did foreſee that their deſcendants would ſplit half the towns in the ſtate and multiply repreſentatives without number. They indeed came to a howling wilderneſs; but there has been a material change. We now live in a *bowling ſtate*—our foreſts dont howl with wolves, ſo much as formerly; but our ſettlements abound with *bowlers*. There is a ſpecies of holwers who howl for fear of loſing their influence add opportunities of putting the peoples money into their pockets. We have thoſe who howl for fear their debts will be paid. Some in the legiſlature, think their own pockets and the peoples liberty the ſame thing—they think when their ſeats are loſt the people's liberty is loſt—they therefore howl moſt grevioufly about liberty. But the people know this is not the truth, and ſooner or later they will howl ſuch howlers into ſilent oblivion.

But *jealouſy*, thou child of hell and father of all miſchief, what ſhall we ſay to thee? There are two parties in the ſtate—jealous of each other; *federal and anti-federal*. The federal men ſuppoſe the anti-federal to be knaves, deſigning artful demagogues. The anti-federal ſuppoſe the federal to be ambitious tyrannical men who are aiming at power at the expence of the people at large.

Particular men, in theſe claſſes, may poſſibly deſerve theſe ſuſpicions; but in general they are ill founded ſurmiſes. I am acquainted with both and know that moſt men in both claſſes are very honeſt well meaning men, who are aiming at what they ſuppoſe to be the public good. But the anti-federal think as they have been bred—their education has been rather indifferent—they have been accuſtomed to think on the ſmall ſcale—they can think on no other without an enlargement of their mind. Beſides moſt of them live remote from the beſt opportunities of information, the knowledge they acquire is late, and is longer in producing conviction in their minds, than in more enlarged minds. Moſt people wiſh to do right; when they know what is beſt they will always do it. Were the anti-federal men in this ſtate to travel, to ſit in Congreſs to converſe with men who underſtand foreign policy, and with foreign miniſters, in ſhort, were they to view this ſtate and the continent in their true connection with other nations, they

would think like the federal men and join in their measures. The system of measures now pursuing by the majority of the legislature would, if carried through, inevitably bring disgrace, poverty and ruin upon this state—and at any rate would produce embarrassments innumerable, before the people are so enlightened as to change men and measures. I wish parties would be charitable. The anti-federal men are not generally rogues——the federal men are not generally ambitious—I believe they are equally honest. But people are generally too ignorant to manage affairs which require great reading and an extensive knowledge of foreign nations. This is the misfortune of republican government. For my own part, I confess, I was once as strong a republican as any man in America. *Now*, a republican is among the last kinds of government I should choose. I should infinitely prefer a limited monarchy, for I would sooner be subject to the caprice of one man, than to the ignorance and passions of a multitude. I believe men as individuals enjoy more security, more peace and more *real liberty* under a limited monarch take princes as they rise, than in republics, where people sometimes get furious and make laws destructive of all liberty. Some of the late laws of Rhode-Island are greater stretches of tyranny than have been tolerated in the despotic governments of Europe; and life and property are less secure in Massachusetts, than in the Turkish dominions. Yet I wish not for a change in government—I wish the people to be better informed—I wish to see jealousy subside, that men who understand true policy best may have their proper share of influence. Our states cannot be well governed, till our old influential characters acquire confidence and authority.

NEW HAVEN, November 30.

On the 4th ult. died at Charleston, (South-Carolina) Mr. JOSEPH VINCENT BURD, Printer. He was married on Saturday se'night, and whilst at supper, in the midst of jocund festivity, the hand of death came upon him, and in a few days he left a widow bride, and is himself no more.

TO THE PUBLIC.

AS the members of the Connecticut Assembly have now dispersed and retired to their domestic concerns, and as the people at large have had opportunity of knowing the proceedings of the sessions; every honest man and every lover of his country with an anxiety resulting from the gloom impending over the nation, will make these enquiries——Have they discharged those obligations, which as the representatives of a free people, and as the great guardians of the commonwealth, were incumbent on them? have they, rejecting the motives of a partial and a paltry interest, and spurning the spirit of faction, consulted, with care and an honest wisdom, the real happiness, not only of their constituents, but of every American? have they, while their countrymen in general, and Congress in particular have waited with anxious suspence the event of their deliberations, fulfilled those duties which they owed to that august body? have they acquitted themselves like good patriots and honest men?

Justice, to these enquiries, will be compelled with a sigh, to answer in the negative; and for the truth of the declaration will refer you to the proceedings themselves as they are published to the world.——She will point with an air of pity to what they have done, or with a sterner aspect to what they have refused to do.

At a time when the nation labours under every embarrasment which its political weakness can give birth to; when it is compelled to suffer with a guilty patience, the reiterated injuries and insults of its enemies; when its impotency is made the sport of foreign policy and power, when its councils are despised, and its commerce cramped with foreign imposition; at a time when the wisest and most important national measures are defeated, and rendered contemptible in execution, by want of energy and vigour; when the savages of the west, in a hostility which pervades almost every tribe, are menacing our frontier with invasion; when the grand American council, who, it is well known, place a peculiar reliance on this state, are viewing its movements with an anxious concern; at such a time, I say, does not every generous mind revolt at the idea, does it not strike every honest heart with horror, that Connecticut should declare to the world, that she will consider herself detached from that union which she has pledged her faith to support and defend? that she will renounce all claim to national veracity and honour, and that she will defraud, with an open and unblushing countenance, her lawful creditors? is it not, my fellow citizens, an abuse of reason and common sense, that the most important and necessary requisitions of Congress should be vilely sacrificed to the arts of a detestable and designing faction? The same faction which before under the appearance of Convention, endeavoured to throw the state into confusion, and to infuse the principles of anarchy into the vitals of a regular government: the same faction which, at all times, the refuse and dregs of the populace, have ever acted with the deliberate purpose of subjecting the order and happiness of community to its own self-interest; this faction odious in itself and baneful in its influence is still building on the ruins of the public good and lording over the reason of mankind. When a conspicuous branch of the confederacy presents to the public examples of ignorant and absurd measures, it is unfortunate that the whole state, but especially the legislature as a body, must be involved in the disgrace. They do not always know, that when ridiculous and impolitic laws have been enacted, they have met virtuous opposition from the patriotic and wise; whose voice however too gentle to be heard amidst the clamours of a majority, has been compelled to yield to the authority of the vulgar vote. Thus when by the intrigues of party, the most excellent methods of policy, in an important crisis of our national existence, have been rendered insignificant; mankind, incapable of discriminating between the patriot who supported and the villain who opposed them, will blacken all with an undistinguishable stigma: but those who have opportunity by a nearer view, to observe the scene of things, may with propriety single out the authors of our infamy, and aim the arrow of vengeance at its proper objects; It is their duty to inform the world, that there are still a virtuous few, who are solicitous for the honour and prosperity of their country, and that to this sue belong the learning, the wealth and virtue of the state.

Many of the faction have suffered most painfully the sarcastic severity of wit; and even the sober good sense of the state smiles with complacency, at the ridicule so justly deserved: but while wit points her keen shafts, reason insulted and oppressed, will still assert her right, and aim with a vengeful arm the sword of serious reproach.

Satire may lash the absurdities and ignorance of the party; it may sport with the meanness of their characters, and fix risible appellations on their persons: but in every honest bosom indignation will take the place of sarcasm, when we reflect on the injuries they have done their country.

As a party they merit the curses of their countrymen; but as individuals, though all are proper objects of ridicule, yet not all deserve the reproaches of their fellow-citizens; for they are innocent though ignorant instruments of others; and while some escape the censure of the virtuous, one may on this occasion be selected, who is equally obnoxious to every man of sense and honour: this person unfortunately of considerable influence among a certain class of people; a man possessed of a species of sagacity a-

dapted to the purſuit of miſchief, but utterly deſtitute of the ſcience of legiſlation, the principles of a patriot, and the liberality of a gentleman. This man whoſe general ignorance of the nature of government, and whoſe abſurd ſchemes of parſimonious politics recently exhibited in the aſſembly, received the contemptuous hiſſes of every rational ſpectator, this man I ſay, has ever acted and ſtill acts from the determined purpoſe of blaſting the ſucceſs of every plan of political wiſdom. This man under the maſk of concern for the peoples rights, conceals a heart which knows not the ſentiment of public virtue, and feels no other impulſe but that of a mean ſelf-intereſt. It is he who in a former ſeſſion took an active part in oppoſing the requiſitions of congreſs on the ſubject of an impoſt; who with a duplicity inſeperable from a diſhoneſt mind, when he perceived himſelf incapable of effecting his purpoſe, diſowned uniformly in private converſation the ſuffrage he had given in the houſe: and when he diſcovered that ignorance and intrigue could no longer triumph over the good ſenſe of the legiſlature, or ſucceſsfully oppoſe the meaſure, preſumed to claim the honour of being its moſt ardent advocate. Let the people be no longer deluded by the pretenſions of that man; let them place their confidence in thoſe who, by their abilities and their known integrity, are worthy of it.——let them no longer be deceived by the falſe inſinuations of thoſe, *who buſy themſelves in diffuſing ill-grounded apprehenſions of Congreſs*, and who by a uniform conduct declare themſelves the enemies of the confederation. Have we appointed that venerable body to be the guardians of the union, and the watchmen over our country's ſafety, and ſhall we by an abſurd and puſillanimous diſtruſt, deprive them of the power of carrying into effect the glorious purpoſes of our independence? Shall we cut off the hand which has wielded our ſword in an important ſtruggle, and preſented us at length with the olive branch of peace and the laurel of freedom? ſhall we baſely deſert them? Shall we leave them to languiſh in poverty and diſtreſs. and to ſuffer the contempt of their enemies and the pity of their friends? Surely every boſom that feels the ſentimets of honour and humanity muſt glow with indignation at the idea. But my fellow citizens ſhall we eſcape the laugh & contempt of the world while congreſs are deſpiſed? Are they not part of us? and will not America be involved in the ſame diſgrace of its federal head? Can the body receive nouriſhment and ſtrength, while the heart feels the approach of diſſolution and decay? Are the people ſafe while their rulers poſſeſs not the means of defence? does it not ſtrike every one's obſervation, that the general ferment of the ſavages is occaſioned by the dark intigues of Britain & Spain who, preſuming on our imbecility, are buſy to diſtreſs us? And while we are openly oppreſſed, and our fortunes inſulted at pleaſure by foreign powers, ſhall we foſter the principle of internal diſorder, and ſacrifice our national felicity to the arts of an infamous faction? We muſt not expect long to enjoy the ſweets of ſecurity, while we reject the juſt claims of our public creditors. They have the power to force us to compliance, and they will exert it.——The occaſional depredations of the Moors will ſeem of ſmall importance to us, when we have an open and more formidable enemy to combat; and while our commerce is ruined by reprizal, we ſhall have the mortification to reflect that our ſees have juſtice on their ſide, and ſhall lament when too late, our ingratitude and folly.

CATO.

Extract of a letter from Captain Jonathan Sabin, to his Owners in this City.—Lat. 26—40 N.—Long. 13 E. on board the Sloop Sally, at Sea, September 29, 1786.

"GENTLEMEN,

"It is with the utmoſt grief I inform you of our misfortune: On the 22d inſtant, we had a moſt violent gale at E. and E. by S. in which after having our decks ſwept of the ſtock, we loſt Mr. Miles, and John Woods, who were with myſelf and black Tom carried off the quarter-deck as we were removing a bundle of hay which obſtructed the free paſſage of the tiller—I was caught in the topping-lift, and Tom by a ſmall rope round his leg, which happy circumſtances ſaved our lives. You will have an idea of our ſituation when I inform you that *after the loſs of thoſe two men*, I thought there was a proſpect of weathering the ſtorm—that a ſea ſtruck her ſtern, we being exactly before the wind, and ſet her up on end, the keel being perpendicular, and about ſix feet of her ſtern out of water, and the maſt-head in it—when ſhe wore ſhe lay on her beams. Having loſt our boat, windlaſs, large cable and anchor, with every looſe thing on deck, we immediateiy cut away the maſt, when ſhe righted, and lay for an hour with the ſea making a fair breach over her;—we got her again before the wind and the ſtorm abated about ſix hours after. The brig Alfred, Henry Skinner, Maſter, from Sheep's Gut, is now along ſide (by whom I write) he has aſſiſted me with ſpars, and alſo to get them up, and has done every thing to ſerve me which humanity could dictate;—I have no doubt now of reaching the port."

PHILADELPHIA November 21.

Dr. LADD's Death.

The American muſes are in mourning for the premature death of this favorite. His poetical pieces were really an honour to his country—and were hardly excelled by any publiſhed here. He had a diſpute with mr. Ralph Iſaacs, which was carried on in the Charleſton papers, and as is too common in all newſpaper controverſies teemed with the moſt infamous abuſe. One of the parties in his laſt publication, termed the other "one of the moſt blaſted ſconndrels that ever diſgraced humanity."

The conſequence was a duel. Dr. Ladd was wounded in both legs; and, thirteen days afterwards, expired.

WANTED

Within 90 days from this Date, SHIPPING HORSES, Hay, Oats, Indian Corn, Pork, Beef, Flour, White, and Red Beans, Butter and Cheeſe.

For which good Pay will be made.

WETMORE & SHERMAN.

New-Haven, Nov. 28, 1786.

CASH will be given for a NEW-MILCH COW, By JOSIAH BURR.

New-Haven November 29, 1786.

NOTICE is hereby given to the following perſons, Non-reſident perſuitors of the town of Waterbury, viz. Obed Bradley, James Bard, David Camp, Elias Clark, Thomas Cooper, David Curtis, Samuel Davenport, John Dowes, Ebenezer Doolittle, Nathan Fairchild, John Fenn, Ebenezer Hurd, David Lewis, Thomas Spery, James Spery, Eſther Thompſon, Caleb Turrill, Thomas Wooſter, Ephraim Platt, George Comm, Robert Ray, Iſaac Thomblinſon, Peter Vandercoot, Truſe Baſſet, that ſo much of their Land will be ſold, as will pay their town taxes, at the ſign-poſt in Waterbury, on the firſt monday of January next, at one o' Clock in the afternoon.

James Brunſon, Collector

Waterbury November 4th, 1786.

WE the ſubſcribers appointed Commiſſioners by the Honourable Court of Probate, for diſtrict of New-Haven, to examine the claims and demands of the creditors to the eſtate of Nathan Hewel late of New-Haven deceaſed repreſented inſolvent:

Do hereby give notice, that we ſhall attend ſaid buſineſs, on the third Mondays of December and January next, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at the dwelling-houſe of Dcct. Eneas Munion in ſaid New-Haven.

RICHARD CUTLER, ELIAS STILWELL, NATHAN OAKS. } Commiſſioners.

New-Haven November 23d. 1786.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

PURSUANT to the Reſolution of the Hon. General Aſſembly, and the Direction of the Court of Probate for the diſtrict of New-Haven, the following parcels of eſtate, being part of the real eſtate of Mr. JOHN HOTCHKISS, late of New-Haven, deceaſed, will be ſold: viz. One half of a houſe and lot in Wallingford, formerly the property of David Cooke. A ſhop and lot of land at the ſouth-eaſt corner of Broad-ſtreet, fronting Hamſtreet and York-ſtreet, a moſt convenient ſtand for a merchant or any kind of buſineſs. And a tract of land in Sharon. For particulars apply to the ſubſcriber, adminiſtrator on ſaid Hotchkiſs's eſtate,

ISAAC JONES.

New-Haven, Nov. 21, 1786.